

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-9. Cancelled.

Claim 10 (Currently amended). A transgenic plant stably transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds SEQ ID NO:23 a ~~5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3'~~ ~~DNA-sequence~~ attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is expressed in the plant and the expression of the nucleic acid provides an increased tolerance to drought as compared to a wild type variety of such plant under the same conditions.

Claims 11-13. Cancelled.

Claim 14 (Original). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein the plant is a monocot.

Claim 15 (Original). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein the plant is a dicot.

Claim 16. Cancelled.

Claim 17 (Currently amended). A plant seed stably transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds SEQ ID NO:23 ~~a 5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3' DNA sequence~~ attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is expressed in the seed and the expression of the nucleic acid provides an increased tolerance to drought as compared to a wild type variety of such plant seed under the same conditions.

Claim 18 (Currently amended). A plant host cell that has been stably transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds SEQ ID NO:23 ~~a 5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3' DNA sequence~~ attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is expressed in the plant host cell.

Claims 19-20. Cancelled.

Claim 21 (Currently amended). A method of producing a water stress tolerant transgenic plant, the method comprising:

stably transforming a plant cell or cell culture with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein comprising (1) a Hd-Zip domain that binds SEQ ID NO:23 ~~a 5'-CAAT(A/T)ATTG-3' DNA sequence~~ attached to (2) SEQ ID NO:30, wherein the nucleic acid is expressed in the plant cell or cell culture; and

regenerating the cell or cell culture into a plant.

Claims 22-40. Cancelled.

Claim 41 (Previously presented). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 42 (Previously presented). The transgenic plant of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43 (Previously presented). The plant seed of claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 44 (Previously presented). The plant seed of claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 45 (Previously presented). The plant host cell of claim 18, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 46 (Previously presented). The plant host cell of claim 18, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 47 (Previously presented). The method of claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 48 (Previously presented). The method of claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.